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### Valero Refinery Aruba to reopen



L. to r.: Minister Mike de Meza, Ray Buckley, Prime Minister Mike Eman, Kim Bowers, and Bill Day

Following a marathon session of Parliament this past week-

end lasting over 24 hours, island legislators passed rulings

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which allowed the present government to settle tax disputes with Valero Energy Corporation, resulting in the re- commencement of operations of the Refinery Valero Aruba.

Yesterday, at 3:00 p.m., the atmosphere was jubilant as Prime Minister Mike Eman and Minister of Finance, Communication, Energy Utilities, Mike de Meza escorted Kim Bowers, Valero Executive Vice President and General Counselor

and Bill Day, Executive Director of Media Relations along with Valero Vice-President and General Manager of Valero Refinery Aruba into a press conference to officially announce the refinery begins operating again on September 1, 2010.

"We did it!" was a steady chorus from government workers involved in the negotiations as Prime Minister Eman announced that Valero has agreed to invest \$50 million dollars over the next 90 days towards bringing the refinery back online. He also expressed his deep gratitude to Bill Klesse, Chairman and CEO of Valero Energy Corporation, for his patience during the process of reaching an agreement, and his largesse in keeping the Aruba refinery staff of 780 employees on salary until terms were agreed upon. It was announced last June the refinery would close "for the summer," then in August, "indefinitely," when all the contracted employees were dismissed. The dispute was over the introduction of a

Value Added Tax on oil exports initiated by Aruba's former government, which was still in arbitration in Holland. A new administration voted into office last September was dedicated to the goal of reaching an agreement which would result in the reopening of the facility.

Questions to Ray Buckley on whether Valero will make further investments in the refinery or take on a partner were met with the comment that such decisions cannot be confirmed at this time; the economic environment regarding

the oil market will govern any such commitments by Valero. Kim Bower and Bill Day commented that operating the Aruban refinery is very attractive financially to Valero, even though other facilities in the U.S. remain closed. "When you have such a welcoming island, and such fine and dedicated workers as we had in Aruba, it is well worthwhile for Valero to continue operating here," concluded Ms. Bowers.

by Rosalie Klein











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# Abbas gives flotilla activists citizenship



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas

BETHLEHEM, West Bank - Activists on the humanitarian aid flotilla raided by Israeli forces as it headed to Gaza will receive Palestinian citizenship, President Mahmoud Abbas said.

The Palestinian Authority president announced the decision during a speech before the Palestine Investment Conference, which was launched in Bethlehem, The Jerusalem Post reported Thursday.

Abbas also announced the conference would be called the Conference of Freedom after the Free Gaza flotilla.

Nine activists were killed Monday when Israeli commandos stormed the Turkish-flagged Mavi Marmara in international waters. Israel said its soldiers were acting in self-defense because passengers attacked the commandos when they repelled onto the ship from helicopters.

Abbas urged the U.N. Security Council, the Quartet of countries working on a Middle East peace accord and other international bodies to protect Palestinians and to work on lifting the Israeli blockade on Gaza, the Post said.

He also demanded the establishment of an international commission of inquiry into Monday's flotilla incident

"We won't accept a situation where the peace process is being used as a means to avoid peace and its obligations," Abbas said. "We want to ask the world: When will this repression and occupation end? When will bloodshed end and real peace prevail?"

On Thursday, Israel's High Court rejected six petitions regarding the flotilla raid, the Post

said.

Three petitions sought information about the whereabouts of the passengers. The other three petitions asked the court to overrule the decision of Israeli Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein and stop the police investigation of the events on the Mavi Marmara.

Supreme Court President Dorit Beinish said she found no reason for interfering with the attorney general's deportation of the activists.

# Wild life toll rises as oil spill spreads



A brown pelican covered in oil sits on the beach at East Grand Terre Island along the Louisiana coast. Oil from the Deepwater Horizon has affected wildlife throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

# VENICE, La., -- Crews trying to stop the flow of oil gushing into the Gulf of Mexico cut a pipe on the seabed and will try to cap it, a U.S. Coast Guard official said Thursday.

Adm. Thad W. Allen, the national incident commander, told reporters the shears operated robotically made "an irregular cut" through the pipe, The Washington Post reported.

Meanwhile, the White House announced that President Barack Obama would return to the Louisiana coast to assess the latest work to clean up the oil spill that has been polluting the gulf since April 20, when the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded, killing 11 workers. It sank two days later.

The cut, rougher than originally planned, does make it "a bit more challenging" to seal and place a containment cap on the crippled pipe, Allen said.

It also was possible that oil could leak from the seal because of the irregular cut. If that happens, he said, "we will have the option to use undersea dispersants" to deal with any leaking oil.

BP crews used the shears after an effort with a finer "diamond-wire" saw failed Wednesday. Allen said the diamond saw apparently became stuck when it encountered a drill pipe inside the riser pipe leading from the gushing well.

Meanwhile, protesters said they would rally across the United States starting Thursday, calling for the U.S. government to seize the assets of BP over the gulf oil spill.

Organizers of the Seize BP grassroots campaign said they planned demonstrations in more than 50 cities, CNN said.

"From Florida to Seattle, Washington, from Hawaii to New York, all over California and many, many states across the country, people will be taking to the streets over the next week to demand that the assets of BP be seized now," said Richard Becker, a member of the San Francisco chapter of the group.

**BP** successfully cuts

underwater pipe

Allen said on CNN Thursday the public needs to brace for the possibility that the leak wouldn't be stopped until August.

"We always said the real fix would be a relief well ... (but) that won't happen until August," he said.

After the latest setback, the idea of using a nuclear device to plug the leak has been gaining momentum, but federal officials said a so-called nuclear option isn't on the table, The New York Times reported.

Stephanie Mueller, a U.S. Energy Department spokeswoman, said neither Energy Secretary Steven Chu nor anyone else was thinking about a nuclear blast under the gulf.

Weather is beginning to play a role in the oil spill cleanup as shifting patterns threatened to push more oil toward the shores of Mississippi, Alabama and Florida, state officials said.

Mississippi reported weathered oil and tar balls washed ashore on its barrier islands Tuesday. On Wednesday, Florida Gov. Charlie Crist warned that crude could reach the white sand beaches in the Panhandle "in a day or two."

### **NYC** begins commitment ceremonies for gay couples



NEW YORK – New York City officials began offering wedding-like ceremonies for same-sex couples on Thursday, drawing as much criticism as praise from gay rights advocates who want nothing short of full marriage rights.

The ceremonies provide no new rights or advantages to same-sex couples -- other than the opportunity to have a wedding in the city's renovated marriage bureau.

The city has allowed gay and lesbian couples to register as domestic partners since

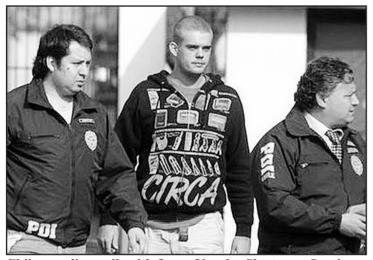
1993 but the additional rights conferred upon them lack validity outside city limits. Domestic partnership bestows gay couples more rights such as bereavement leave, health insurance benefits and hospital visits as family members.

Now the city is hoping to attract same-sex partners to its marriage bureau, which underwent a \$12.3 million renovation and re-opened last year in a direct challenge to Las Vegas as a destination for people to get married. The bureau features a floral and bridal gift shop and two simple, yet elegant chapels where couples are married by a marriage clerk.

"It's a cheap ploy," said Jeff Campagna, founder of The Power, a gay rights organization. "What they're saying is pay \$35 have a pretend marriage license ... it's a way to increase the coffers of the city, without increasing any benefits to the gay community."

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# Chile nabs Dutch man linked to Aruba mystery



Chilean police walk with Joran Van der Sloot near Santiago, yesterday.

ARICA, Chile – A Dutch man long suspected in the disappearance of an Alabama teen on Aruba was arrested yesterday in the murder of a young woman in Peru.

Stephany Flores, 21, was killed in a Lima hotel Sunday, five years to the day after Natalee Holloway disappeared.

The suspect, Joran van der Sloot, was escorted by three police officers as he was taken from a dark vehicle into a police office in downtown Santiago, Chile. He made no comment as he entered, walking calmly and without handcuffs as journalists shouted his name.

Van der Sloot was detained while traveling in a taxi, about halfway to the coast on Route 68, said Prefect Alfredo Espinosa, chief national spokesman for Chile's investigative police. The suspect did not resist and has been calm in detention, Espinosa said.

Chilean police are awaiting instructions from their counterparts in Peru, Espinosa added.

In Lima, police Gen. Cesar Guardia said Flores, who had been seen with the suspect early Sunday, was found Wednesday lying face down on the floor of van der Sloot's hotel room. Her neck was broken, and she was fully clothed, with no signs of having been

sexually abused.

Authorities found no potential murder weapons in the room, Garcia said.

Guardia said the 22-yearold Dutchman, in Peru for a poker tournament, appears with the young woman in a video taken at a Lima casino early Sunday and the two were later seen entering the hotel by one of its employees.

The victim's father, circus empresario and former race car driver Ricardo Flores, says his daughter dropped off some girlfriends at 2:35 a.m. then apparently returned to the casino. She and van der Sloot were seen entering the hotel room about 5 a.m., said Guardia, and the Dutchman departed alone about four hours later.

"We have an interview with a worker at the hotel who says she saw this foreigner with the victim enter his room," said Guardia.

A lawyer for van der Sloot in New York, Joe Tacopina, cautioned against a rush to judgment.

"Joran van der Sloot has been falsely accused of murder once before. The fact is he wears a bull's-eye on his back now and he is a quote-unquote usual suspect when it comes to allegations of foul play," Tacopina said.

### Renovated Brickell Bay Beach Club now open

The Brickell Bay Beach Club on Aruba's Palm Beach recently completed a major renovation, which saw the upgrade of the hotel's 100 rooms and suites, the Intermezzo Spa, as well as its fitness and business centers.

The 100 superior rooms and suites, all either with two double beds or with one king size bed, were specially designed, from the choice of carpeting or tiles to the curtains and furniture, blending harmoniously contemporary style with a tranquil ambiance.



# Jamaica seeks \$1 billion to rid island of drug gangs

Jamaica is seeking \$1 billion in loans and grants to rid the country of "cancerous" drug gangs that have taken over poor neighborhoods on the Caribbean island and hurt economic growth, Finance Minister Audley Shaw said.

Government officials met May 31 with representatives from the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, United Nations, the U.S. and European countries to seek funds to expand the police force and rebuild communities where drug lords have become de-facto governors, Shaw said yesterday in a telephone interview. The violence can't be allowed to continue, he said.

"It saps the energy of the country, it saps all productive capacity," he said from Kingston. "Our investment partners have recognized that this government is demonstrating it knows how to deal with the crime problem."

Prime Minister Bruce Gold-



The empty streets of Jamaica

ing declared a state of emergency May 23 to contain gang violence related to efforts to extradite an accused drug lord to the U.S., which Shaw said was the beginning of a broader campaign against gangs that control parts of the capital. At least 74 people have been killed during the hunt for Christopher "Dudus" Coke, who remains at large.

Shaw emphasized that most of the violence has been in

Kingston, miles away from the beaches, resorts and golf courses popular with tourists on the country's north shore. Tourism accounts for about 10 percent of gross domestic product and half of foreign exchange earnings, according to the Jamaican Tourist Board.

"What we want to do is make sure we deal with this cancerous problem," Shaw said

### Raul Castro turns 79 with eyes on future

HAVANA, Cuba – Cuban President Raul Castro turned 79 yesterday, showing no signs of slowing down as he works to assure that Cuban communism survives beyond his generation.

His birthday was not mentioned in Cuba's state-run newspapers, possibly because the topic is a sensitive one for the country's aging leaders.

They have no obvious younger successors, but Castro, who replaced ailing older brother Fidel Castro in February 2008, appears to be in good health and in no mind to leave office anytime soon.

While opponents in the United States and elsewhere have long said the system installed after Cuba's 1959 revolution would die with the Castros, Raul Castro has made



clear that he plans to keep Cuba communist long after he and his brother are gone.

Castro's immediate successor, first vice president Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, will turn 80 in October and the average age of all six vice presi-

dents on the Council of State is 71.6 years.

They are all younger than Fidel Castro, who is 83 and has not appeared in public since undergoing intestinal surgery in 2006, but remains the head of the party.



### Freat donation for Fundacion Autismo after superb Wente/ Papiamento golf tournament



Proclaimed as the 'best Wente Vineyards/Papiamento Restaurant Golf Tournament ever', the 2010 edition of this annual golfing event had a fantastic finale this past week when a cheque of AWG. 7.500,-- was handed over to the Fundacion Autismo di Aruba. Representatives Monique Kuiperi, Tasha Britten and Thaisse Erasmus were very happy when Martrude Rutgers of the Arion Wine Company, representative on the island of Wente wines, donated the cheque to their foundation.

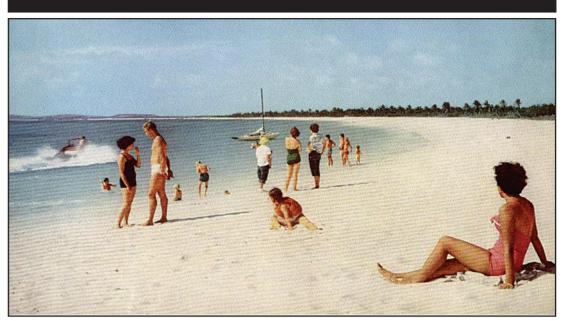
The Fundacion Autismo di Aruba's (FAA) main aim is to increase knowledge and awareness of the illness, but it also assists parents and children who need support in many ways. Recently the foundation organized a very successful and most informative symposium with renowned speakers, all experts in their fields.

The Wente Vineyards/Papiamento Restaurant golf tournament was held last April; it was the sixth event at which 5th generation Wente owner Eric Wente was present. An excellent golfer himself, Eric always greatly enjoys 'his' tournament and this year was no exception.

The Arion Wine Company thanks its valued sponsors for their continued support, which makes it possible to hand the proceeds to a worthwhile charity like the FAA on the island.



### **Back Then**



Palm Beach back then



Rogers Beach back then

On Sunday, Arubans went to the beach. If you lived in Dakota, you gathered up family and friends and headed for the beach in front of what is now Talk of the Town which was then the Coral Strand Hotel.

There were no buildings on the beach and no airport runways right in one's face. The now airport wasn't there yet; it was down and around and in the back along the south coast. Newly arrived visitors who had never (and some who had) driven from the airport were often found wandering around the neighborhood; one wrong turn and you were back where you started.

If you lived in San Nicolas, you went to Baby Beach or Rodgers Beach, off to the far left of the refinery and just at the tip of the island. There were multi-choices opted for up and down the eastern shore from south to north where coves tucked in and out and sandy beaches that ran the gamut. It was quiet and never crowded and it was Sunday.

Or you went to Arashi just

below the lighthouse to snorkel for endless hours.

If you wanted the business and social news of the week, you went to Basi Ruti, a small hotel, which as mentioned earlier would now be called a boutique hotel and where Playa Linda Beach Resort now stands. Basi Ruti stood alone until the Carib (now the Radisson) was built. The restaurant was ideal for lunch or you brought your own coolers, home-built bar-b-que grills and dug in up-side and down-side of the hotel property.

Waterskiing was in active play then with the kids riding in front of Dad who held onto him or her with one hand and the bar of the rope with the other. Or the child sat on Dad's shoulders and was pulled up and out to the skiing lanes. One of the guys who worked on a pleasure boat for tourists used to waterski without skis, just his bare feet.

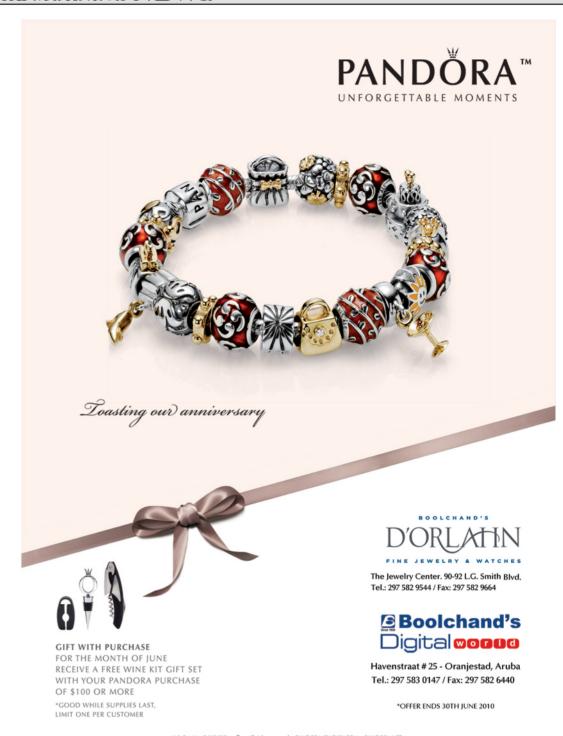
One Sunday a Canadian couple struck up a conversation with Arubans sitting nearby asking about the island. They had just completed a

months-long trek from Canada where they had been studying the history of the Inuits, an indigenous people of Northern Canada and parts of Alaska. They had followed their "trail" down the west coast of the United Sates, into central America and finally to Colombia where they met a tribe that spoke the identical language. Shown photos of the Inuits to the Colombian indians produced amazing results: they looked as alike as brothers and sisters and with the language in common it was a successful and intriguing adventure.

Several more Arubans gathered around curious to see the photos. One said she looks just like my old Tanta (aunt) Mimi; another said he looks like my grandfather and on it went. The Canadians were stunned and delighted because they had more information to explain the migration. They pointed to a couple walking along the beach and said they must be visitors from Colombia. No, said another, they are my cousins coming to join us for lunch







# Contribute to the community and welcome the weekend at Buster's Garage today!

Rusty Schultz, owner of Aruba's newest sport bar, Buster's Garage, announced that the congenial hangout located in the South Beach Mall in Palm Beach will host a special way for islanders and tourists to benefit the less fortunate and welcome the weekend.

Today, June 4, Buster's will host a day of giving and receiving; customers are invited to bring cans of potted meats, fruits and vegetables, tuna and seafood, long-life packaged juices and milk, or dry goods such as plastic packaged flour, rice and cornmeal to deposit in a special can placed at Buster's Garage for the day.

In return, contributors will receive a free drink from Buster's; either a glass of beer, wine or a juice or soft drink. All food with a long shelf life are welcome.

The project is called "Yes We Can," and donations will fill the store house of Fundacion pa Nos Comunidad, FPNC, which provides clothes, furniture and other essentials to the less fortunate of Aruba.

Claudie Wegdam, project manager of FPNC, expressed the foundation's gratitude to Rusty, who witnessed the success of a similar project during a recent visit to New York City, and approached FPNC with the idea about a month ago.

She commends his altruism and concern for the community, with the hope that residents and tourists alike will enthusiastically participate.

If successful, Rusty will establish the "Yes We Can" project as a regular event the first Friday of every month. Claudie will be stationed at the Buster's entrance with the donation bin

artistically crafted by Juan Werle-

Champions Sport Bar in the Marriott Ocean Club has also enthusiastically joined in this effort to support the community, and the "Yes We Can" barrel will be placed at the Champions' entrance this coming Sunday, June 6, offering another opportunity to reap the rewards of helping the less fortunate while enjoying good times with good friends.

Claudie and Rusty invite all to experience the rewards of giving to the less fortunate, both spiritually and tangibly. "Yes We Can" enables all to enjoy a night out with friends while helping those who are struggling to feed their families.

Photo shows Rusty Schultz owner of Buster's Garage and Claudie Wegdam standing next to the "Yes We Can" barrel



### Science/Tech.

# 8 scientists share lucrative Kavli Prizes

OSLO, Norway (AP)— Eight scientists from the U.S., Britain and Germany shared three awards worth \$1 million each on Thursday for work that has helped humans explore distant corners of the universe and the tiniest particles on Earth.

The biennial Kavli Prizes honor research in three categories: astrophysics, nanoscience and neuroscience. This year's winners were announced at a ceremony in Oslo, which was simultaneously broadcast at the World Science Festival in New York.

The 2010 awards recognize innovations in telescope design, research into the chemistry behind brain activity and breakthroughs in the study of minuscule materials and molecule-sized structures, the Norwegian prize officials said.

The award for astrophysics was shared by American Jerry Nelson of the University of California, Santa Cruz; British scientist Raymond Wilson of the European Southern Observatory and formerly of Imperial College London; and Roger Angel of the University of Arizona. Angel has British and U.S. citizenship.

Working separately, Nelson and Angel improved the structure of telescopes, making them more powerful and allowing them to provide higher-resolution images.

Angel, whose lab designs and builds mirrors for some of the world's largest telescopes, said the award was especially gratifying because such honors usually go to theorists or astronomers.

"It's nice that once in a while they recognize the people who make the telescopes that ultimately are behind these discoveries," Angel said.

Wilson's work also helped astronomers gaze further into space by using computers to correct for the distorting effects of gravity, wind and temperature on telescopes.

The neuroscience prize was awarded to German Thomas Suedhof of Stanford University and Americans Richard Scheller of the biotechnology company Genentech and James Rothman of Yale University.

Suedhof and Scheller both

discovered genes that govern the way nerve cells in the brain communicate. Rothman showed how vesicles — tiny sacks that shuttle molecules within cells — are directed to specific parts of brain cells to control brain function, hormone release and a host of other activities.

Americans Nadrian Seeman of New York University and Donald Eigler of IBM's Almaden Research Center won the nanoscience prize, which honors research on exceedingly tiny materials and structures often smaller than a single human cell.

"Feels great. What can I say?" Seeman, 64, said in a phone interview from the World Science Festival.

"It means recognition for a field in which there are a lot of people, most of them a lot younger than me, participating," he said.

Seeman discovered that DNA — the genetic material of living creatures — could be used to construct an assortment of molecule-sized devices and machines. In a recent study published in the science journal "Nature," Seeman and others showed how they built from DNA a functioning assembly line of molecular robots.

In 1989, Eigler became the first person to succeed at moving precisely an individual atom from one place to another. He then made "a series of breakthroughs that have helped us to understand some of the most basic units of matter," the citation said.

The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters awards the prizes in partnership with the Kavli Foundation and Norway's Ministry of Education and Research. The awards carry a \$1 million purse apiece. The winners are selected by leading scientists in each field.

First awarded in 2008, the prizes are named after their founder, Norwegian entrepreneur and philanthropist Fred Kavli. He moved to the U.S. in 1956 and became the CEO of Kavlico Corp., one of the world's largest suppliers of sensors for aeronautics, automotive and industrial uses. He sold the company in 2000 and used the profit to found the California-based Kavli Foundation.

# Taiwan's Green Book unveils lightest e-book reader



A saleswoman displays an electronic book reader at the Computex Taipei hi-tech trade show.

TAIPEI – Taiwan's Green Book Inc. Thursday unveiled what it called the world's lightest electronic book reader, weighing just 180 grams (0.4 pounds), days after Apple launched its much-anticipated iPad.

The firm's updated version of "greenbook", the first Chinese-language e-book reader that came out in late 2009, was given its first showing at Computex Taipei, Asia's largest high-tech trade show.

"It is the world's lightest and is better designed to read e-books than iPad as it weighs less and can easily fit into a pocket," said Neo Wang, a vice president at Netronix Inc., Green Book's parent.

The iPad weighs about 1.5 pounds.

Featuring a 15-centimetre (six-inch) screen, the new "greenbook" can store up to 30,000 books with a maximum 32 GB memory and read 8,000 pages with each full battery charge, according to the company.

It is primarily designed for Chinese-language books, but can also be used for other languages.

Wang said Netronix's sales had not been affected by the launch of the iPad in April.

Taiwan last year announced it would invest 2.13 billion Taiwan dollars (66 million US) over five years in digital publishing in a bid to boost the 100 billion Taiwan dollars industry.







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### **Spill threatens Floridas** beaches and tourism



A BP worker uses a skimmer to clean oil from a marsh near Louisiana. The Gulf of Mexico oil slick closed in on Florida Thursday as US officials shut downfishing in a vast swathe of the region's waters and efforts to contain the leak hit another snag.

### Microsoft responds to Google's Windows ban

Microsoft has come out fighting after reports that Google will phase out Windows in its workplace over security concerns.

The company counterattack came after it initially declined to comment on a story in the Financial Times which cited several unnamed Google employees saying the company is dumping Windows because of worries about security.

Google has reason to fret about security. In January, Google announced that Chinese hackers had broken into its network and stolen confidential information, an incident that led the company to move its Chinese search operation to Hong Kong and out of reach of Chinese government censors. Security researchers later said hackers had targeted Google and

other companies with an exploit of a then-unpatched vulnerability in Microsoft's Internet Explorer 6.

Internet Explorer 6.
Rather than Windows,
Google is offering workers
the choice between Macs
running Apple's Mac OS X
and PCs running Linux, the
Financial Times said.

"When it comes to security, even hackers admit we're doing a better job making our products more secure than anyone else," said Microsoft spokesman Brandon LeBlanc in a post Tuesday afternoon to the company's Windows blog.

"And it's not just the hackers; third party influentials and industry leaders like Cisco tell us regularly that our [security] focus and investment continues to surpass others." LeBlanc added.

#### **HEALTH & LIVING**

# New finding could supply urine test for autism

PARIS - A NEWLY discovered chemical fingerprint could yield a simple urine test to determine if a child has autism, according to a recent study.

Autism and related disorders affect up to six or seven out of every 1,000 individuals. Symptoms are life-long and can vary widely, but often include impaired social skills, repetitive behaviours, difficulty in expressing one's emotions, and an aversion to physical intimacy. There is no known cure.

The factors leading to autism are generally present at birth, but the disorder is difficult to diagnose as it can be confused with other behaviour-related problems.

At present, children are assessed through a lengthy process that tests social inter-



action, communication and imaginative skills. A confirmed diagnosis is rare before the age of 18 months, and most often occurs much later. A chemical marker would allow early diagnosis

and could prove hugely helpful in getting a head start on treatment, the researchers said

'Giving therapy to children with autism when they are very young can make a huge difference to their progress,' said lead researcher Jeremy Nicholson, a professor at Imperial College London. 'A urine test might enable professionals to quickly identify children with autism to help them early on,' he said in a statement.

Such a test, he cautioned, would probably take several years to develop. Surprisingly, the key to the chemical fingerprint is found in the digestive tract. People with autism typically suffer from gastrointestinal problems stemming from a different bacterial makeup in the gut.

# Burgers lovers risk cheese wheeze: study



PARIS – Too many burgers slathered with rich sauces and toppings not only clog arteries but may boost the risk of asthma and wheezing too, especially in kids, according to a study released Thursday.

Conversely, a so-called Mediterranean diet -- heavy on fruit, veggies and fish, while light on fat -- can help stave off asthma-related respiratory problems, said the study, published in the British Medical Journal.

Asthma is the most common chronic disease in children. Often triggered by dust and allergies, it inflames the airways that brings air in and out of the lungs.

Symptoms include wheezing, chest pains and constricted breathing. Worldwide, the disease afflicts some 300 million people and kills about 250,000 each year, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

For reasons that remain poorly understood, asthma has been on the increase over the last 25 years, especially in rich nations.

To assess the extend to which diet may be a factor, researchers led by Gabriele Nagel at Ulm University in Germany examined health data on 50,000 children, aged eight to 12, collected between 1995 and 2005 from 20 rich and poor countries around the world.

Parents were asked to describe what their children ate, and whether they had ever been diagnosed with asthma or severe wheezing.

Nearly 30,000 of the youngsters were tested to see if food and drink influenced their chances of developing allergies.

Diet did not seem to enhance sensitivity to common sneeze-inducing allergens such as grass, pollen and flowering trees.

But it did correlate with the prevalence of asthma and wheezing, according the study.

Children, for example, who ate three or more hamburgers a week along with sugar-filled sodas faced a significantly higher risk.

But tucking into burgers is probably not a direct cause of the disease so much as an indicator of a complex basket of lifestyle factors that favour its development, the researchers noted.

This would explain why comparable burger binging in poorer countries was not associated with the same level of risk.

Consistent with these findings, a Mediterranean diet correlated strongly with a lower incidence of asthmarelated symptoms.

Earlier studies have suggested that the antioxidant vitamins found in fruits and vegetables -- especially E, C and B-carotene -- help reduce asthma in adults, while omega 3 polyunsaturated fatty acids in fish are thought to have anti-inflammatory properties.

It was not clear whether the presence of fatty foods or the absence of non-fatty ones was most responsible for the link with asthma.

Meat consumption by itself did not seem to be a factor one way or the other.



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### Breathing exercises may boost athletes' performance

Doing daily breathing exercises to strengthen inhalation muscles and reduce their need for oxygen helps boost performance during endurance sports such as cycling and swimming, a new study shows.

Indiana University researchers found that inspiratory muscle training (IMT) significantly reduced the amount of oxygen required by breathing muscles during exercise, making more oxygen available for other muscles.

IMT involves the use of a hand-held device that creates resistance while inhaling, requiring a person to make greater use of inspiratory muscles.

The study involved 16 male cyclists, aged 18 to 40. After six weeks of IMT training, inspiratory muscles required about 1 percent less

oxygen during low-intensity exercise and 3 percent to 4 percent less oxygen during high-intensity exercise.

The findings were to be presented June 3 at the annual meeting of the American College of Sports Medicine in Baltimore.

"The study helps to provide further insight into the potential mechanisms responsible for the improved whole-body endurance performance previously reported following IMT," Louise Turner, a researcher in the kinesiology department, said in a news release.

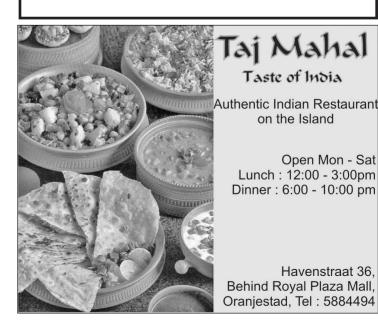
Besides improving the performance of endurance athletes, IMT has been used to treat patients with lung diseases, such as asthma, cystic fibrosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

#### **Tip:** Signs That You May Have an Ulcer

An ulcer is a sore that occurs in the tissue that lines the digestive tract. Most ulcers are believed caused by a bacterial infection.

The American Academy of Family Physicians says the warning signs of an ulcer may include:

- \* Pain that improves with eating or drinking, then gets worse after another hour or two.
  - \* Pain that gets worse while eating or drinking.
  - \* Pain in the stomach that wakes you at night.
  - \* Feeling full very quickly.
- \*Feeling heaviness, bloating, burning or a dull pain in the belly.
  - \* Throwing up.
  - \* Losing weight unexpectedly.





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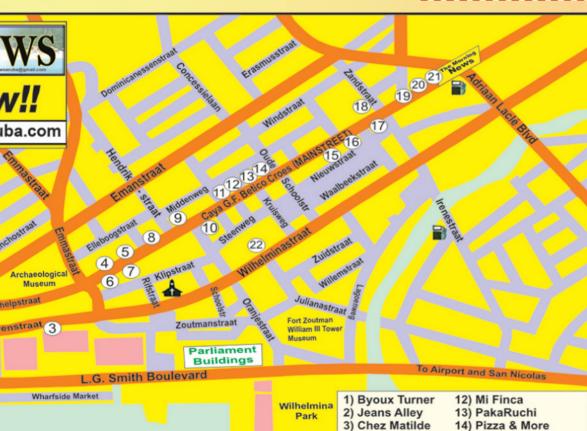
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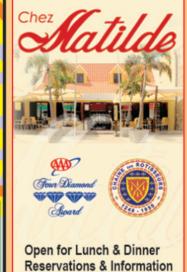
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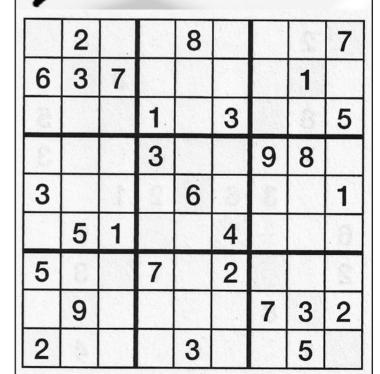
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Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9

A number is Never repeated

in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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## Bernanke says job scarcity a concern

DETROIT, Michigan – Lending to small businesses is declining, making it more difficult to counter the persistent problem of high unemployment, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said yesterday.

Bernanke said policymakers have largely succeeded in stabilizing the U.S. financial system and economy over the past two years but the scarcity of jobs is a concern.

"I raise this issue here because healthy small businesses, including start-ups as well as going concerns, are crucial to creating jobs and improving employment security," he told a meeting at the Chicago Fed's Detroit branch organized to discuss the financing needs of Michigan's small businesses.

Bernanke noted that loans to small businesses dropped from nearly \$700 billion in the second quarter of 2008 to about \$660 billion in the first quarter of 2010. He conceded it was hard to tell exactly why.

"An important but difficultto-answer question is how much of this reduction has been driven by weaker demand for loans from small businesses and how much by restricted credit availability," Bernanke said.

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He said the Fed was still examining causes for the reduced flow of credit to businesses and it was "vital" it stay focused on discovering why it was happening and correcting the situation.

Banks, Bernanke said, need to be "prudent" in lending decisions but not overly restrictive toward granting loans to small business.

Bernanke, who took questions from members of the audience, said he would end his remarks with "a little bit of guarded optimism" about the outlook for credit conditions.

"We are seeing some improvement. The survey of loan officers suggests that the tightening process is ending, that some banks are getting to loosen their terms. We are seeing loss rates stabilize, many banks are returning to profitability. Some improvement in the economy," Bernanke said.

"Obviously we've still got a long way to go but I'm hopeful that we will see improved conditions for credit going forward," he said.

# Hoenig: Fed should raise rates to 1 percent

BARTLESVILLE, Oklahoma – A top Federal Reserve official yesterday made a bold call for the U.S. central bank to raise its key interest rate to 1 percent by the end of summer, saying the economy is strong enough to support such a hike.

Thomas Hoenig, president of the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank, has called for a modest increase in borrowing costs before, but he went further yesterday by suggesting it should happen over the next several months and by calling for an increase in borrowing costs to 3 percent in rapid order.

Hoenig, who is known as one of the Fed's most strident anti-inflation hawks, said the U.S. central bank should raise its benchmark federal funds rates to avoid being slow in responding to the recovery.

"Based on the current outlook consensus, it seems rea-

sonable that the economy would be well-positioned to accept this modest increase in the funds rate," Hoenig told a business lunch.

The Fed cut interest rates to near zero percent in December 2008 and has kept them there since to aid economic recovery.

Hoenig said the recovery is gaining steam and appears stronger and more broad-based than anticipated.

"We are now seeing clear signs that the process of job creation is taking hold," he said.

Hoenig is a voter on the Fed's policy-setting panel and has dissented against the Fed's exceptionally easy money policies at all three meetings this year. He has said he is worried that rock-bottom borrowing costs for such a long period will fuel another dangerous boom-and-bust cycle.

Hoenig said yesterday the Fed should start by dropping its promise to hold rates exceptionally low for an extended period, as part of the process of bringing interest rates and the Fed's extension of credit to the economy back to normal.

The U.S. central bank should then raise rates to 1 percent and then stop while it assesses how the economy reacts to the higher rates. If the recovery remains solid, the Fed should push borrowing costs to 3 percent reasonably quickly, he said.

The Fed should also sell some of the mortgage-backed securities it bought as it sought to give the flagging economy an additional boost after it chopped interest rates to near zero, he added.

The debt crisis in Europe is "fluid" and poses a risk to the recovery, Hoenig said.

# G20 aims to reduce red ink and keep recovery on track

BUSAN, South Korea – Disagreements over how quickly to reduce billowing budget deficits and restore balance to the global economy risk straining high-level Group of 20 talks that started yesterday.

A plunge in the euro and in global stock markets, triggered by fears that Greece's debt woes could spread to other euro zone countries, has added urgency to the meetings of G20 finance ministers and central bankers in this southern port city.

With officials ruling out agreement in Busan on key financial and regulatory reforms, including a mooted global bank levy, the need to strike the right balance between trimming deficits and sustaining economic growth will take center stage. "Countries with high budget deficits need to make sure they can deal with those deficits," Britain's Finance Minister, George Osborne, said in Beijing before flying to Busan.

"Surplus countries also

# Luxury brands warming to the Web

LONDON, England – Luxury groups are finally warming to the Internet, lured by surging sales and a wider audience for their brands, though lingering suspicions could limit the level of online penetration compared with the wider retail sector.

High-end brands have been slow to embrace the Web, worried that universal access will destroy their aura of exclusivity and wary of a medium which has also fueled a proliferation in the trade of counterfeit goods.

But executives and analysts suggest attitudes are starting to change as shoppers show a willingness to buy even the most expensive products from the convenience of their homes.

"If you had asked me two years ago, I would have said there is no way we are going to have any sort of evening clothes business online," said Alexander Bolen, chief executive of U.S-based fashion

"I was totally wrong about that. I have been totally shocked at the sort of business we have done online."

house Oscar de la Renta.

U.S. consultancy Bain said online sales of luxury goods surged 20 percent last year, compared with an 8-percent decline in the industry overall, and expects that rate of growth to accelerate this year.

And it's not just about sales. Luxury firms are finding their websites and social networking sites like Facebook are a way to build loyalty and create a buzz about their brands. need to play their part contributing to global growth and that will be one of the big topics for discussion in South Korea," he said.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said the need to get the balance right was a "shared imperative" recognized by all G20 members.

"As the IMF says, we want those fiscal reforms to happen in a way that's growthfriendly," Geithner told reporters in Washington on Wednesday. "Some countries are in a very strong position. Some countries need to move much more quickly."

Another G20 official put the need for coordinated fiscal tightening more graphically: the euro zone crisis had shown that some countries would have to withdraw stimulus earlier than expected, but not everyone should run to the other side of the boat at the same time, the official said.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

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# The Road to 2010 FIFA World CUP

# Spain Bonus for winning World Cup tops global list at €600,000



Spain's grand bonus for each player if the squad wins the World Cup has caused some controversy.

As reported by Marca, the €600,000 that will be awarded to each Spanish player should Spain win this summer's World Cup has drawn controversy from a variety of corners, as it is the highest bonus to be promised out of any of the 32 teams taking part in this summer's World Cup.

Only Argentina's and England's bonus amounts come close to Spain's €600,000 figure. The Albiceleste would be awarded €510,000 per player upon winning, while English players would receive €475,000. In the case that Italy should win the World Cup, the Italian players would earn less than half of what the Spanish players have at stake - €240,000. Brazil would earn even less -€180,000.

Other squads of note are France, who will take €390,000 per player while German players will be

South Africa

Mexico

France

Netherlands

Denmark

Japan

Cameroon

awarded €250,000 in the case of a World Cup win (although in the case of the Germans, it has been reported that a large number of those monies will be donated to the Robert Enke Foundation).

If Spain reach the quarterfinals of the tournament, each player will earn €60,000, reaching the semi-finals earns €90,000 per player, while reaching the World Cup final earns €120,000.

Spain are tipped by the Castrol Success Predictor to have a 17% chance of winning this summer's World Cup in South Africa.

Critics of such lavish awards have sparked controversy by protesting the Spanish government's decision to dish out so much money to the team, arguing that it does not reflect the fact that Spain is going through its worst economic crisis in recent memory. However, according to the Spanish Football Federation, only 6% of the funds come from the state - the rest comes from the national team's corporate sponsors.

### Group B

Argentina Nigeria Korea Republic Greece

### Group E Group F

Italy Paraguay New Zealand Slovakia

# **Sharp Mexico secure 2-1 win over rusty Italy**

BRUSSELS — Mexico secured a 2-1 victory yesterday in their final friendly before next week's World Cup opener over a rusty Italian side that still have work to do if they are to retain their title.

The world champions, whose previous match was a 0-0 draw with Cameroon in March, started brightly with Vincenzo Iaquinta heading against the bar in the third minute, but the harrying Mexicans then took over with

far neater play.

The lively Giovani Dos Santos found Carlos Vela unmarked in the Italian penalty area and the Mexican striker comfortably scored in the 16th minute.

Veteran Cuauhtemoc Blanco chipped over the Italian defence for Alberto Medina to settle the match in the 83rd minute.

Substitute Leonardo Bonucci pulled one back for Italy in a goalmouth scramble three minutes from time.

Mexico, who lost to England and the Netherlands in warm-up matches last week before thrashing Gambia 5-1, will play the opening match of the World Cup in Group A against hosts South Africa next Friday.

Italy, who take on Switzerland in their final friendly on Saturday, start their Group F campaign against Paraguay on June 14.



A fan of Brazilian football player Kaka cheers prior to during a public training session of t Brazil's national team at the Dobsonville stadium in Johannesburg ahead of the FIFA 2010 World Cup 2010 in South Africa. Brazil will play its first group G match against North Korea on June 15 in Johannesburg.

#### Spain edge Korea Republic in warm-up

European champions Spain eked out a 1-0 victory over Korea Republic in a FIFA World Cup<sup>TM</sup> finals warm-up

Group C

England USA Algeria Slovenia

#### Group G

Brazil Korea DPR Côte d'Ivoire Portugal match here on Thursday.

The match had promised to be an exciting meeting, with Spain hoping to exorcise

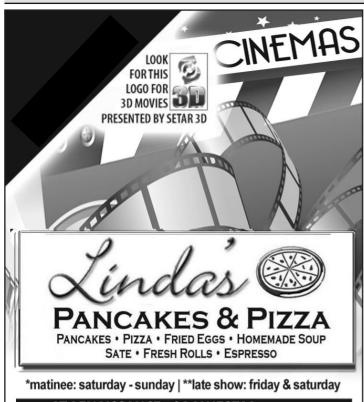
#### Group D

Germany Australia Serbia Ghana

#### Group H

Spain Switzerland Honduras Chile the ghosts of the 2002 FIFA World Cup, when they were stunned by Korea Republic in a controversial quarter-final in which the Spaniards had two goals disallowed.

But the two sides failed to impress during much of the game, with just eight days to go before the tournament kicks off, despite a late goal by Jesus Navas. Playing before a packed house, Spain took the opportunity to give playing time to many of their injured players, while Korea Republic failed to convert some good efforts.



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SEX AND THE CITY (COM/DRAMA): THE FUN, THE FASHION, THE FRIENDSHIP: "SEX AND THE CITY 2" BRINGS IT ALL BACK AND MORE AS CARRIE, SAMANTHA, CHARLOTTE AND MIRANDA TAKE ANOTHER BITE OUT OF THE BIG APPLE--AND BEYOND--CARRYING ON WITH THEIR BUSY LIVES AND LOVES. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU SAY "I DO"? LIFE IS EVERYTHING THE LADIES EVER WISHED IT TO BE, BUT IT WOULDN'T BE "SEX AND THE CITY" IF LIFE DIDN'T HOLD A FEW MORE SURPRISES--THIS TIME IN THE FORM OF A GLAMOROUS, SUN-DRENCHED ADVENTURE THAT WHISKS THE WOMEN AWAY FROM NEW YORK TO ONE OF THE MOST LUXURIOUS, EXOTIC AND VIVID PLACES ON EARTH.



### **Griffey Jr. retires**

# Mariners star ends career after 630 career home runs

SEATTLE -- The final stop on a baseball journey that started and ended in a Mariners uniform comes almost six years from now for Ken Griffey Jr. far away from Safeco Field.

That's when the Hall of Fame doors will surely open for one of the best players of all-time.

"Jack, Chuck and I are going to be standing with tears in our eyes when we see Kenny inducted into the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown," said Mariners CEO Howard Lincoln on Wednesday afternoon.

There were no tears, but a lot of appreciation, coming from Lincoln, club president Chuck Armstrong and general manager Jack Zduriencik as they stood near the home dugout at Safeco Field discussing Griffey's decision to end a 21-plus year Major League career.

Griffey did not make himself available to the media, expressing his thoughts through a statement released by the organization almost three hours before the Mariners played the Twins.

"I've come to a decision today to retire from Major League Baseball as an active player," Griffey said in the statement. "This has been on my mind recently, but it's not an easy decision to come by. I am extremely thankful for the opportunity to play Major League Baseball for so long and thankful for all the friendships I have made, while also being proud of my accomplishments."

Griffey ended his career with 630 home runs, fifth-highest in MLB history, 10 Gold Gloves, one Most Valuable Player Award -- but no World Series appearances.

"My hope is that my teammates can focus on baseball and win a championship for themselves and for the great fans of Seattle, who so much deserve one," the last of the four-paragraph statement said.

Griffey batted .184 (18for-98) with no home runs and seven RBIs this season as the designated hitter and had just one at-bat in the



Mariners' past seven games, grounding into a fielder's choice in the ninth-inning pinch-hit appearance on Monday night.

His final hit at Safeco Field came on May 20, a walk-off pinch-hit single in the ninth that gave the Mariners a 4-3 victory over the Blue Jays.

But his overall lack of production, reduction in playing time and a recent flap over a clubhouse nap during a game apparently were the major factors in Griffey calling it quits.

"While I feel I am still able to make a contribution on the field, and nobody in the front office asked me to retire, I told the Mariners when I met with them prior to the 2009 season and was invited back, that I will never allow myself to become a distraction," Griffey said in the statement. "I feel that without enough occasional starts to be sharper coming off the bench, my continued presence as a player would be an unfair distraction to my teammates, and their success as a team is what the ultimate goal should be."

Armstrong, who has been a loyal fan and backer of Griffey throughout Junior's career, said he had been talking to the franchise icon and his agent, Brian Goldberg, for the past several days.

"I was surprised by the swiftness of Kenny's decision," said Armstrong, who received a phone call from Goldberg on Wednesday morning, and talked to Griffey later in the day.

Griffey later in the day.
He said Griffey "is at peace" with the decision.

"It's very difficult with the lack of playing time and the way the situation ended up, but there's so much respect for Junior in this clubhouse," manager Don Wakamatsu said. "It's a tough day to swallow the fact that you're losing a guy from the game that's been a legend and maybe one of the greatest players who's ever played the game."

Griffey also thanked fans in the statement: "Thanks to all of you for welcoming me back, and thanks again to everyone over the years that has played a part in the success of my career."

Zduriencik was not familiar with Griffey's impact on Mariners baseball in Seattle but became acutely aware of his popularity.

"We thank him for what he did. His contributions were tremendous. What he meant to the club last year, all the fun he had in the clubhouse, and the way he contributed on the field. He's a class person

"It is rare in this game when you get an opportunity to reunite a player and a team. We feel honored that Ken was able to end his career where it began, here in Seattle."

The first overall pick in the 1987 First-Year Player Draft, Griffey played his first 11 seasons with Seattle, before spending the next eight and half with the Reds. He played a brief stint with the White Sox in the second half of the 2008 season, before returning home to the Mariners prior to last season, when he batted .213, hit 19 home runs and drove in 57 runs.

But he meant more than numbers.

He and fellow veteran Mike Sweeney completely changed the clubhouse atmosphere with their leadership. Their influence played a huge role in the Mariners having a MLB-best 24-game improvement in the win-loss department.

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### Surprise! Schiavone, Stosur in French Open final

PARIS (AP)—On a rainy, windy day 53 1/2 weeks ago, at Roland Garros' cozy, 259-seat Court 8, Samantha Stosur and Francesca Schiavone played each other in a run-of-the-mill, first-round match at the French Open.

Stosur, then ranked 32nd, beat Schiavone, then ranked 50th, in straight sets. They'll meet again at the clay-court Grand Slam tournament Saturday. Oh, how the setting and circumstances have changed.

This time around, Stosur vs. Schiavone will be for the French Open championship, in the 14,845-capacity main stadium, broadcast live on TV around the world. In line with the topsy-turvy way this tournament unfolded, it will be the first Grand Slam final for each woman—only the fifth such double-debut in the



42-year Open era.

"No matter what I'm feeling, she's probably thinking it, too, so it's a different, new situation for both of us. Who knows how we're both going

Schiavone (L), Stosur (R)

to feel? I'm sure there's going to be some nerves out there," Stosur said. "I mean, she hasn't gone through it before, either, so that's probably a little bit comforting."

The No. 7-seeded Stosur is the first woman from Australia to play for a major tennis title since Wendy Turnbull was the runner-up at the 1980 Australian Open. That's nothing compared to the wait endured by the No. 17-seeded Schiavone's nation: She's the first woman from Italy to reach a Grand Slam final in the sport's century-plus history.

"It's beautiful," Schiavone said in Italian. "Very beautiful. Moving."

Neither finalist spent much time on court in Thursday's anticlimactic semifinals.

Indeed, Schiavone was sitting on her green changeover bench, toweling off after winning the first set of her match 7-6 (3) in 69 minutes, when her opponent, No. 5 Elena Dementieva, walked up while fighting tears to say she was quitting.

Dementieva explained later that, unbeknownst to everybody else, she tore her left calf muscle during her second-round match.

more?"
Using exactly the same formula that worked against Williams and Henin, Stosur

Williams and Henin, Stosur served brilliantly and pounded forehand winners from all angles. She hit seven aces, reaching 120 mph, and seven forehand winners—numbers one assumes would have been more impressive if the match had lasted more than a mere hour.

Justine Henin in the fourth

players I've played the last

three rounds definitely helps

me for Saturday's match,"

said Stosur, a tour-leading

20-2 on clay this season and

a 2009 semifinalist at Roland

Garros. "I've beaten all those,

so why can't I win one

"Beating the caliber of

Schiavone, who turns 30 on June 23, reached the quarterfinals on her very first trip to the French Open, in 2001, and then never again made it that far in Paris until now. But she had only one firstround loss at Roland Garros in that span—yes, that's right, a 6-4, 6-2 setback against Stosur on May 26, 2009, out on Court 8.

### Bad call cost Gallaraga perfect game



Detroit Tigers pitcher Armando Galarraga, right, hands the lineup card to a tearful umpire Jim Joyce before the Detroit Tigers-Cleveland Indians MLB baseball game in Detroit Thursday, June 3, 2010. Galarraga lost his bid for a perfect game with two outs in the ninth inning on a disputed call at first base by Joyce on Tuesday night. Joyce said he erred on what would've been the final out in Detroit, where the Tigers beat Cleveland 3-0. The umpire personally apologized to Galarraga and hugged him after the game, then took the field at Comerica Park on Thursday in tears.

"It's very painful to even walk," said Dementieva, who isn't sure whether she'll be at Wimbledon. "Just couldn't continue to play."

In the day's second semifinal, Stosur produced her third consecutive victory over a player who's been ranked No. 1, completely overpowering a bewildered Jelena Jankovic 6-1, 6-2 to add to upsets of 12-time major title winner Serena Williams in the quarterfinals and fourtime French Open champion

### **NBA** FINALS



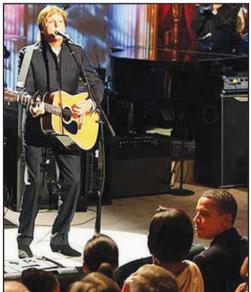
#### **BOSTON VS. L.A. LAKERS**

Thursday, June 3: Boston at Los Angeles, 9 p.m.
Sunday, June 6: Boston at Los Angeles, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, June 8: Los Angeles at Boston, 9 p.m.
Thursday, June 10: Los Angeles at Boston, 9 p.m.
x-Sunday, June 13: Los Angeles at Boston, 8 p.m.
x-Tuesday, June 15: Boston at Los Angeles, 9 p.m.
x-Thursday, June 17: Boston at Los Angeles, 9 p.m.



# McCartney serenades Obamas at White House





WASHINGTON -- Mr Obama presented Sir Paul with the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song in a star-studded ceremony in the East Room of the White House.

And Macca celebrated by serenading First Lady Michelle Obama the lyrics "I love you, I love you," He joked that he just might be the "first guy ever to be punched out by a president."

The president didn't seem to mind though: He was swaying along

to the beat while his wife mouthed the words along with McCartney.

**Next to Marriott Resort** 

McCartney closed the night

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with "Hey Jude." McCartney said he had been "itching" to sing "Michelle" to the first lady at the White House, adding "I hope the president will forgive me."

McCartney, 67, said it was a moment like no other.

"I don't think there could be anything more special than to play here," the Englishman said.

And then he volunteered to make it a regular gig.

"Lunchtimes, we could come around," he offered. "We're cheap."

McCartney also offered a glimpse of his politics, noting that he was especially happy to get the award from "this president" and joking that it was nice to get the Library of Congress award from "a president who knows what a library is."

The entire concert will air July 28 on PBS.

# Gary Coleman's parents want custody of body

The parents of former child TV star Gary Coleman are seeking custody of his body and want it returned to the star's boyhood home in Illinois.

Coleman died in Utah from a brain hemorrhage last Friday at age 42.

Coleman's former manager and family spokesman Victor Perillo said yesterday Coleman's parents are the legal custodians of his body because he was divorced from wife Shannon Price in 2008.

It was Price who ordered that Coleman be taken off of life support.

#### 'Golden Girl' Rue McClanahan dies

Rue McClanahan, the veteran actress who won an Emmy for playing the saucy Southern belle Blanche Devereaux on "The Golden Girls," died early yesterday at New York-Presbyterian Hospital of a stroke. She was 76.

She had undergone treatment for breast cancer in 1997 and later lectured to cancer support groups on "aging gracefully." She had heart bypass surgery last year.

pass surgery last year.
"Golden Girls" ran from 1985-92 on NBC and was a hit from the beginning, starting off



Friday, June 4, 2010

at No. 1 in the Nielsens.



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